

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

C 00671DIRR 639765 ASR 83-1794363
MIDB
D COMET 830801 DIR-639765C0883 1
UPID

SECRET

FRP: , , , , , , , ,

STAFF

CONF: SAG/MEB-3 INFO: ODPD-D, RF, VR, FILE, SADO RECORD, AF/AB-4,
AF/CA, AF/OPS/RB, AF/RB, DC/AF/RB, C/IAD, CCS/CFB, CCS/RB, CCS/REG,
CI/AF, CI/CLFL, EPS/EG-2, IAD/SAG, SAG/PPB-3, SAG/SEB-4, (29/P)

83 1794363 ASR

PAGE 001

TOT: 011500Z AUG 83

DIRECTOR 639765

SECRET

NP STAFF 011500Z DIRECTOR 639765

TO: [] []

WNINTEL [] []

SUBJECT: [] [] ARTICLE - SOVIET LEADERS IMPLICATED IN RAOUL
WALLENBERG DISAPPEARANCE

REF: DIRECTOR 055258

1. PARA TWO FOLLOWING IS [] [] JOB NUMBER 8368.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

-----TEAR LINE-----

SOVIET LEADERS IMPLICATED IN RAOUL WALLENBERG DISAPPEARANCE

RAOUL WALLENBERG, THE SWEDISH DIPLOMAT AND WORLD WAR II HERO
CREDITED WITH SAVING THE LIVES OF 100,000 JEWS, WILL BE 71 YEARS
OLD ON AUGUST 12--IF, THAT IS, HE HAS MANAGED TO SURVIVE 38 YEARS
IN THE PRISONS, LABOR CAMPS AND PSYCHIATRIC PRISON "HOSPITALS" OF
THE SOVIET UNION.

IN JULY 1944, THIS SWEDISH ARISTOCRAT AND BUSINESSMAN--THEN
32 YEARS OLD--ACCEPTED AN APPOINTMENT AS FIRST SECRETARY OF
NEUTRAL SWEDEN'S LEGATION IN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY. WITH FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FROM THE AMERICAN WAR REFUGEE BOARD AND THE HELP OF THE
INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, HIS MISSION WAS TO SAVE AS MANY JEWS AS
POSSIBLE FROM THE NAZI DEATH CAMPS. AFTER THE MARCH 1944 INVASION
OF HUNGARY BY GERMAN TROOPS, THE NOTORIOUS ADOLF EICHMANN HAD BEEN
GIVEN THE JOB OF SHIPPING HUNGARY'S 800,000 JEWS--THE LAST MAJOR
GROUP LEFT IN EUROPE--TO EXTERMINATION CAMPS AT AUSCHWITZ AND
BIRKENAU.

WITH INCREDIBLE DARING AND COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR HIS OWN
SAFETY, WALLENBERG DEVISED SPECIAL PASSPORTS DECLARING THE BEARERS
TO BE HONORARY SWEDISH CITIZENS AND--WITH THE HELP OF MANY
COLLEAGUES--HANDED THEM OUT TO SOME 20,000 JEWS. WITH THE WAR
NEARLY LOST, GERMAN GUARDS AND HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS WERE

SECRET

Page 1

SECRET

INTIMIDATED, BRIBED OR PROMISED EXEMPTION FROM POSTWAR PUNISHMENT BY THE SHREWD SWEDISH DIPLOMAT--WHO LITERALLY PULLED JEWS OFF DEPORTATION TRAINS AND OUT OF DEATH-MARCH COLUMNS. CARRYING HIS BLUFF EVEN FURTHER--SINCE THE SPECIAL PASSPORTS HAD NO LEGAL VALIDITY--WALLENBERG RENTED, AND FLEW SWEDISH FLAGS OVER, SAFE HOUSES THROUGHOUT BUDAPEST. THESE PLACES--WHICH SHELTERED SEVERAL THOUSAND JEWS--WERE GUARDED BY ARYAN-LOOKING JEWISH MEN DRESSED IN GERMAN SS UNIFORMS. WALLENBERG ALSO MANAGED TO CONVINCE THE GERMAN GENERAL IN COMMAND OF BUDAPEST TO IGNORE HIS ORDERS TO MASSACRE THE 70,000 JEWS LEFT IN THE CITY'S GHETTO.

WALLENBERG SURVIVED SEVERAL ATTEMPTS ON HIS LIFE--PROBABLY ORDERED BY THE INFURIATED EICHMANN--ONLY TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE SOVIET "LIBERATORS" OF HUNGARY ON JANUARY 17, 1945. HE WAS LAST SEEN ON THAT DATE, HIS CAR FLANKED ON EACH SIDE BY TWO NKVD (THEN THE ACRONYM FOR THE KGB) OFFICERS ON MOTORCYCLES. HE THOUGHT HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO MEET SOVIET MARSHAL MALINOVSKY IN DEBRECEN TO DISCUSS PROTECTION FOR THE JEWISH REFUGEES, BUT HAD JOKINGLY TOLD A COLLEAGUE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE: "I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER I AM GOING AS A GUEST OR AS A PRISONER."

IN THE 38 YEARS WHICH HAVE PASSED SINCE WALLENBERG--DESPITE HIS DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY--WAS SEIZED BY THE RUSSIANS, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT UNDER STALIN, KHRUSHCHEV, BREZHNEV AND NOW ANDROPOV HAS REFUSED TO TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT HIS FATE. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY FIRST TOLD THE SWEDISH LEGATION IN MOSCOW: "MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE SOVIET MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO PROTECT MR. RAOUL WALLENBERG." A MONTH LATER, THE SOVIET MINISTER TO SWEDEN TOLD THE WIFE OF THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER THAT WALLENBERG WAS SAFE AND IN GOOD HEALTH, AND SOON AFTERWARDS ASSURED WALLENBERG'S MOTHER THAT HER SON WOULD SOON RETURN TO SWEDEN. BUT THEN, ONLY A WEEK LATER, THE SOVIET-CONTROLLED RADIO BROADCASTING FROM DEBRECEN REPORTED THAT HE HAD BEEN KILLED BY THE GESTAPO.

REPEATED EFFORTS TO OBTAIN VERIFIABLE INFORMATION ON WALLENBERG FROM THE RUSSIANS SINCE THAT TIME HAVE BEEN UNAVAILING. IN 1947, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI VISHINSKY WROTE THAT NO TRACE OF WALLENBERG HAD BEEN FOUND AND THAT HE HAD NEVER BEEN ARRESTED BY THE RUSSIANS. ALMOST A DECADE LATER, ON FEBRUARY 6, 1956--WHEN THE SOVIETS COULD NO LONGER IGNORE REPORTS FROM RELEASED WESTERN PRISONERS WHO HAD SEEN WALLENBERG IN SOVIET PRISONS AND CAMPS--FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO FINALLY ADMITTED THAT WALLENBERG HAD BEEN IMPRISONED IN MOSCOW AS THE RESULT OF THE "CRIMINAL ACTIVITY" OF NKVD CHIEF ABAKUMOV, WHO HAD BEEN EXECUTED AFTER THE DEATH OF STALIN. GROMYKO WENT ON TO SAY THAT WALLENBERG HAD DIED OF A HEART ATTACK IN JULY 1947, IN MOSCOW'S LJULBJANKA PRISON AND THAT HIS BODY HAD BEEN CREMATED.

THIS FLIMSY AND COMPLETELY UNDOCUMENTED STORY IS STILL THE OFFICIAL LINE ON THE WALLENBERG CASE, DESPITE THE FACT THAT RELEASED PRISONERS WHO EVENTUALLY REACHED THE WEST REPORT THAT THEY HAD SEEN AND COMMUNICATED WITH WALLENBERG IN VARIOUS PRISONS AND CAMPS DURING THE 1950S, 1960S AND 1970S.

ALTHOUGH WALLENBERG'S AMERICAN FINANCING MAY HAVE CONVINCED THE RUSSIANS IN THE BEGINNING THAT HE WAS A U.S. AGENT, IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY--UNDER SUCCESSIVE SOVIET

SECRET

ADMINISTRATIONS--HE HAS NEVER BEEN RELEASED. ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION--VOUCHED FOR BY SWEDISH AUTHORITIES--IS THAT HIS ARREST WAS ORIGINALLY ORDERED BY LT. COL. LEONID BREZHNEV, THEN THE POLITICAL COMMISSAR OF THE 18TH RUSSIAN ARMY THAT "LIBERATED" HUNGARY. THIS INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY YAAKOV MENAKER, AN 18TH ARMY LIEUTENANT WHO NOW LIVES IN ISRAEL, WHO RECEIVED IT FROM CAPTAIN AMINYEYEV WHEN HE BOASTED TO MENAKER OF HIS ROLE IN SEIZING THE SWEDISH DIPLOMAT AND LATER TAKING HIM TO MOSCOW.

KHRUSHCHEV HAD NOTHING TO GAIN BY RELEASING WALLEMBERG AND THUS EXPOSING THE INCREASINGLY POWERFUL BREZHNEV'S ROLE IN THE AFFAIR. AND BREZHNEV HIMSELF--WITH HIS PRETENTIONS TO WORLD LEADERSHIP--COULD NEVER ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRUTH. YURI ANDROPOV, THE CURRENT SOVIET LEADER AND FOR 15 YEARS HEAD OF THE KGB, CAN ONLY LOSE FACE IF HE RELEASES A WRONGFULLY IMPRISONED DIPLOMAT WHO HAS HAD 38 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH THE SECRET POLICE AND PRISON SYSTEM OF THE SOVIET UNION.

-----TEAR LINE-----

3. PLEASE FORWARD STATION/ASSET COMMENTS CONCERNING USEFULNESS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ABOVE MATERIAL. PLEASE INCLUDE ☐ ☒ JOB NUMBER.

4. FILE: 200-124-179/3. CA POLICY: HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USSR & EE, DIR. 419604, 14 APR 79. DECL OADR DRV HUM 4-82. ALL SECRET.>
ORIG: IAD/SAG/MEB ☐ ☒ 1591); COORD: AF/CA; AF/AB; AUTH: AC/IAD/SAG/MEB ☐ ☒; REL: C/AFAB. CL ☐ ☒